

Remarks

The features objected to in original claims are now cancelled, therefore the corrected drawing sheets have not been submitted.

Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-11 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant has added new Claims 12 -18 which are directed to a mirror system that provides views to the rear of a vehicle. The support for Claims 12-18 is found on pages 3 and 8, and Figure 4. The Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been entered via the amendments.

With respect to the rejections to original claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are now moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1-11. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections to Claim 1-11.

In addition, Applicant argues that the present invention overcomes the cited combinations of references as follows. The combination of the cited references, including Dioulo French Pat. 2,718,690 ("Dioulo"), Clontz US Pat. 3,890,848 ("Clontz"), Kentes US Pat. 3,252,377 ("Kentes"), Hanin US 4,435,044 ("Hanin"), and Official Notice of parabolic surfaces in mirror assembly.

None of the previously cited references teaches or suggests, either alone or in combination, the at least one mirror mounted forward of the driver in parallel to the longitudinal axis in communication with the at least one mirror mounted in the rear of the vehicle, allowing the driver to view objects within the line of sight of the at least one mirror mounted on the rear of the vehicle, as recited in the new Claim 12. More specifically, Dioulo teaches a lateral viewer for vehicles which is permanently affixed to a vehicle surface at the front of the vehicle's hood but does not suggest at least one mirror in communication with the forward mirrors to provide the driver with rear views. Clontz discloses a foot-pedal

control assembly for a rear view mirror for use with a vehicle but does not teach or suggest providing at least one mirror mounted forward of the driver in parallel to the longitudinal axis in communication with the at least one mirror forward of the driver, allowing the driver to view objects within the line of sight of the at least one mirror mounted on the rear of the vehicle. Kentes discloses a V-shaped vehicle mirror and mounting which may pivoted in a "fore and aft direction of the automobile" but does not teach or suggest rear mounted mirrors in communication with the forward mirrors to provide the driver with rear views. Since the Dioulo and Kentes mirrors are both fixed, they teach away from combining with an apparatus to shift or manipulate the mirror. Hanin discloses a mirror system that allows the driver of a truck to view directly behind the truck, which might otherwise be difficult to view, if at all, to prevent accidents while backing up and/or avoid loss of goods by monitoring the area surrounding the rear entrance to the truck. Hanin does not teach or suggest at least one mirror in communication with the forward mirrors to provide the driver with rear views. It would not be obvious to combine Hanin with the other cited references which do not teach using a bird's eye view of the area behind a vehicle because Hanin mirror assembly would provide only a view a the trunk area if it were to be attached to cars or vehicles other than trucks. The Examiner has taken Official Notice of parabolic surfaces in mirror assemblies. Notwithstanding the Examiner's Official Notice of parabolic mirrors, parabolic mirrors in combination with any of the cited prior art does not teach or suggest at least one mirror in communication with the forward mirrors to provide the driver with rear views. The presence of a parabolic surface on a mirror surface may slightly enhance the field but it does not define its scope as the placement and adjustable angles do. Consequently, no impetus exists to combine the cited references.

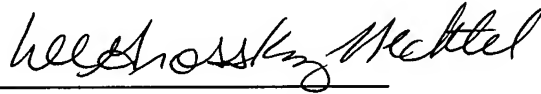
In view of the above, it is believed that the claims are drawn to patentable subject matter and should be allowed.

A conscientious effort has been made to place this application in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if further changes are required to obtain allowance of the application.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and a favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: March 23, 2005

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lee Grosskreuz Hechtel", written over a horizontal line.

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